

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (previously presented). A pressure-sensitive adhesive composition based on (co)polymers of acrylic acid methacrylic acid, derivatives of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid, or combinations thereof, which has an at least two-phase domain structure and also an outgassing level of less than 10 µg/g, based on the weight of the composition, when measured by the tesa method.

Claim 2 (original). The pressure-sensitive adhesive composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least some of the (co)polymers are block copolymers of the general type P(A)-P(B)-P(A), where

- P(A) represents a homopolymer or copolymer block of the monomers A, possessing a glass transition temperature of from -80°C to 0°C,
- P(B) represents a homopolymer or copolymer block of the monomers B, possessing a glass transition temperature of from 20°C to 175°C,
- and the homopolymer or copolymer blocks P(A) and the homopolymer or copolymer blocks P(B) are insoluble in one another.

Claim 3 (original). The pressure-sensitive adhesive composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least some of the (co)polymers are block copolymers of the general type P(B)-P(A)-P(B), where

- P(A) represents a homopolymer or copolymer block of the monomers A, possessing a glass transition temperature of from -80°C to 0°C,
- P(B) represents a homopolymer or copolymer block of the monomers B, possessing a glass transition temperature of from 20°C to 175°C,

- and the homopolymer or copolymer blocks P(A) and the homopolymer or copolymer blocks P(B) are insoluble in one another.

Claim 4 (previously presented). The pressure-sensitive adhesive composition as claimed in Claim 2 or 3, wherein the monomers A are selected from the group consisting of the acrylates $\text{CH}_2=\text{CHCOOR}$, methacrylates $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{COOR}$ and combinations thereof, in which the groups R are alkyl radicals having from 4 to 14 carbon atoms.

Claim 5 (previously presented). The pressure-sensitive adhesive composition as claimed in Claim 2 or 3, wherein at least some of the monomers A have a functional group R' which is capable of coordinative crosslinking.

Claim 6 (previously presented). The pressure-sensitive adhesive composition as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein at least some of the monomers A have a functional group R'' which possesses a cohesion-enhancing effect for the homopolymer or copolymer P(A), for the overall block copolymer or for both.

Claim 7 (currently amended). A process for preparing the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition of Claim 1, using a polyacrylate solution obtainable by free-radical polymerization, which comprises

a concentration process in which

- ♦ following polymerization, an entrainer is added to the polyacrylate solution,
- ♦ the polyacrylate solution with the added entrainer is passed into an extruder in which the polyacrylate solution is subjected to a carrier distillation,

- ◆ as a result of the concentration a polyacrylate composition ~~of a kind~~ is produced which is processed further from the melt
and the concentrated polyacrylate composition, optionally, is applied to a backing material.

Claim 8 (previously presented). The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein, following the concentration, a postpurification is carried out in at least one further step by adding the same or another entrainer to the concentrated polyacrylate composition and conducting a further carrier distillation in the extruder.

Claim 9 (previously presented). The process as claimed in Claim 7 or 8, wherein at least the extruder in the concentration step is a corotating or counterrotating twin screw extruder.

Claim 10 (previously presented). The process as claimed in Claim 7 or 8, wherein steam is used as entrainer.

Claim 11 (previously presented). An adhesive tape comprising a backing material having applied to one or both sides at least one film of a pressure-sensitive adhesive composition as claimed in Claim 2 or 3.

Claim 12 (previously presented). The adhesive tape as claimed in claim 7, wherein said backing material has an outgassing tendency of less than 5 µg/g.

Claim 13 (previously presented). The pressure-sensitive adhesive composition of Claim 4, wherein said alkyl radicals have 4 to 9 carbon atoms.

Claim 14 (previously presented). The process of Claim 8, wherein said further carrier distillation is conducted at higher temperatures and lower vacuum than the preceding distillation step.